

REMARKS

The above amendments and following remarks are submitted in response to the Official Action of the Examiner mailed March 22, 2005. Having addressed all objections and grounds of rejection, claims 1-20, being all the pending claims, are now deemed in condition for allowance. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration to that end is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 13, 16, and 18 preferring the alternative spelling "publicly" to Applicants' preferred spelling "publically". In response thereto, Applicants have herewith made the amendments requested by the Examiner. Furthermore, claim 11 has been amended to cure the typographical error noted by the Examiner.

The Examiner objected to the Abstract as originally filed. Though no specific suggestions were provided by the Examiner, it was noted by Applicants that the Abstract as filed was longer than 150 words. In response thereto, the Abstract has been amended.

The Examiner objected to a number of informalities within the specification. In response to all of the specific recommendations, Applicants have herewith amended the specification.

However, with regard to the objection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, Applicants respectfully traverse. Apparently,

the Examiner objects to the use of the term "computational state". Webopedia Computer Dictionary (on-line at <http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/s/state.html>) defines the term "state" as:

(n.) The last-known or current status of an application or a process. The terms maintaining state and/or managing state refer to keeping track of the condition of the process. (Emphasis added)

The Examiner may wish to compare this with, for example, Applicants' title, "State Management for a Step Architecture", or the Abstract which states, "Each state report indicates the computational state resulting from the associated step to the next succeeding step in the sequence". Should a more detailed definition be required, one could consult page 17, lines 10-13, of the specification which states:

The computational state represents the current set of variables that are accessible by a step, the current working table, the names, sizes and types of columns in the current working table, and any other state information that a step can produce. (Emphasis added)

Applicants are not opposed to changing well-known terms such as "computational state" and "state management", they simply are not aware of equivalent terms which would be readily useful to those of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, Applicants respectfully traverse this objection until such time as suitable terminology can be selected.

Similarly, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, in view of use of the term, "state report". This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is assumed that one of skill in the art would view "state report" as a report on the "current status of a process" (see definition above). Page 17, lines 7-9, states:

Each step has associated with it an output state report that represents the computational state that will exist after the step has performed its actions. (Emphasis added)

Applicants have no interest in obscuring their invention. Therefore, if the Examiner wishes to make a specific recommendation, it would certainly be considered. In the interim, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The Examiner has cited numerous informalities. In response thereto, Applicants have amended the claims to accommodate the Examiner's suggestions. Gratitude is expressed for the Examiner's efforts in identifying these errors.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, and 16-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,058,264, issued to Glaser (hereinafter referred to as "Glaser"). This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed as to the amended claims.

With regard to claim 1, the "Data Wizard" and "state report" limitations have been amended to make it even more explicit that each "step" which defines the claimed "component" directly represents a sequence of "command language script" in the language of the claimed "data base management system". Thus, the

component expresses the desired functionality in a "language" (i.e., sequence of steps) which is even higher level than the native command language script of the data base management system. Furthermore, the claimed "state report" for a given "step" completely defines the results achieved by execution of the command language script corresponding to that "step" by the claimed data base management system.

Glaser does not have these claimed elements. For example, in Glaser, the communication is directly in script (see column 4, lines 13-17) rather than in the higher level "steps" as claimed. Furthermore, though Fig. 5 shows "identification, "determination", and "transition" of state, there is no "reporting" of state as claimed. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1, and all claims depending therefrom, is respectfully traversed.

Similarly, claim 6 has been amended to show that the claimed data base management system executes command language statements which correspond to the steps of the component, and the state reports specify the output results of execution of the command language statements corresponding to each associated step. Again, Glaser does not have this structure. The rejection of claim 6, and all claims depending therefrom, is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 7, and 18 depend from claims 1, 6, and 17, respectively, and further limit the main coupling network. In making her rejection, the Examiner cites Glaser column 3, line 67, through column 4, line 1. With all due respect, this citation says nothing of the network. It mentions that browser 108 could be Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator but says nothing of the structure of any network. Because it is well known that these software components are utilized for other than Internet applications, it is clear that Glaser does not meet the limitations of claims 2, 7, and 18, as a matter of law. Therefore, the rejection of claims 2, 7, and 18 is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3, 9, and 13-14 depend from claims 2, 8, and 12, respectively, and further limit the software architecture of the claimed user terminal. The Examiner cites "client computer" 102 for which no software architecture is defined. The rejection of claims 3, 9, and 13-14 is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4 and 17 depend from claims 3 and 16, respectively, and further limit the claimed "state reports". Because Glaser has no "state reports", it cannot have these further limitations. The rejection of claims 4 and 17 is respectfully traversed.

Claims 8 and 12 depend from claims 7 and 11, respectively, and further limit the "state report". Because Glaser has no

"state reports", it cannot have these further limitations. The rejection of claims 4 and 17 is respectfully traversed.

Claim 11 is an independent method claim having seven steps. As explained above, the amendments to claim 11 require that the claimed "software component" be assembled as a sequence of steps, wherein each of the steps in turn corresponds to a sequence of command language script. Glaser, on the other hand, communicates directly in script (see column 4, lines 13-16). Furthermore, though Glaser discusses "state", it has no disclosure of reporting state, as claimed. The rejection of claim 11, and all claims depending therefrom, is respectfully traversed.

Claim 16 is an independent apparatus claim having four basic structural limitations. Claims 16 as amended is distinguishable over Glaser in accordance with the discussion above. The rejection of claim 16, and all claims depending therefrom, is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5, 10, 15, 19, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glaser in view of Applicants' Admitted Prior Art. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed for failure of the Examiner to present a *prima facie* case of obviousness in accordance with the requirements of MPEP 2143. The Examiner has not shown motivation and has not even attempted to show reasonable likelihood of success. She has ignored the incompatibilities between

Applicants' system and that of Glaser. The rejection of claims 5, 10, 15, 19, and 20 is respectfully traversed.

Having thus responded to each objection and ground of rejection, Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment and allowance of claims 1-20, being the only pending claims.

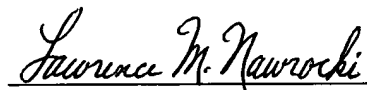
Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0620.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their attorney,

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